At the present time the most appar

Early Religious Awakening in Europe, Founded on Fear, Quickly Passes-People Lose Faith in Prayer-Vice Still Rampant in Cities

By The Rev. ELMER T. CLARK, Litt. D.

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L expected that the great European war, as it brought death to thousands and bereavement to millions, would have called the minds of the people to reality and to matters of eternity, thus bringing them around to religion. Acting upon this natural expectation, the religious world prepared for a sweeping revival of spirituality, books were written outlining the situation from the religious standpoint, and the Church made ready its forces of enchange of the policy of the reality and to matters of eternity. The purpose of securing its subjective benefit of comfort, hope and strength there was no confusion, but this lofty doctrine had not been taught to the purpose of securing its subjective benefit of comfort, hope and strength there was no confusion, but this lofty doctrine had not been taught to the most of the purpose of securing its subjective benefit of comfort, hope and strength there was no confusion, but this lofty doctrine had not been taught to the most of the purpose of securing its subjective benefit of comfort, hope and strength there was no confusion, but this lofty doctrine had not been taught to the most of the purpose of securing its subjective benefit of comfort, hope and strength there was no confusion, but this lofty doctrine had not been taught to the most of the purpose of the religious and workers for other agencies. And the chaplains are other species and the chaplains are other agencies. And the chaplains are other agencies. And the chaplains are other agencies. And the chaplains are other species. And the chaplains are other species. And the chaplains are other species. And the chaplains are other agencies. And the chaplains are other post in the intential from a religious standpoint, and the chaplain and to the functiona Church made ready its forces of en-

couragement and conservation. One naturally looked to England for the largest developments in this direction, for she has the most evangelical type of religion in Europe and has long been proud of her Sabbath keeping scrupulosity and her religion generally. In the first few months of the war all signs pointed to the fact that the Dissatisfaction Church's expectation was to be abun- With the Church dantly fulfilled. The people flocked to the churches, resorted to prayer and the churches, resorted to prayer and gave all evidences of a quickening religious life: in these months it appeared certain that a great revival was imminent.

But the present time the most apparature religious feature of the social attitudes of Europe is a dissatisfaction with the Church. This is particularly true in England, where the discontent lies against the Establishment rather than with the dissenters. There is no

of correspondents, under the escott where the produced by the war had passed the produced by the war had passed the superficial religious fervor passed also, thus disappointing those who were desiring a renaissance of evangelism.

The officers, and of the company knew me for a clergyman, and I purposely avoided referring to religious matters. But I was surprised to find that the subject was brought up time after time.

The officers, all of whom, apparently, were communicants of the Established Church, were most outspoken against the men or obtaining an audience under false pretensions, and it signified that the men did not go to the Y. M. C. A. for the pure religion they could get. This is no criticism upon the Y. M. C. A., for this organization is doing a vital work among the men.

There is a great demand for some control of the preacher was going to officers detailed for that task. Not one of the company knew me for a clergyman, and I purposely avoided referring to religious matters. But I was surprised to find that the subject was brought up time after time.

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C. A. for the pure after was going to officers detailed for that task. Not one of the company knew me for a clergyman, and I purposely avoided referring to religious matters. But I was surprised to find that the subject them anything.

It seemed a little like imposing on the men or obtaining an audience under false pretensions, and it signified that the men of obtaining an audience under false pretensions, and it signified that the men or obtaining an audience under false pretensions, and it signified tha

Rampant in Europe
To-day the average person travelling through Europe would certainly see no signs of a renewed interest in things religious, and even the specialist who investigates intensely and studies all known signs and evidences will discover but few. In London and Paris, cover but few. In London and Paris, caused by three things. The first is cover but few. In London and Paris, as well as in all the other towns and cities I have visited, vice is as ramp-

creased since the war, and this in spite of the facts that many incomes have been reduced and special charities incident to the war have sprung up in a thousand directions. One will do well to get through a day in any Eu-ropean city without having contrib-uted to one or several benevolences.

## War Has Had

## Opposite Effects

Speaking quite generally, we may say that the war has had two opposite effects upon the religious population. In the first place, it has made thousands of them more devout than they have ever been before. They have literally been driven deeper into their faith by the stern facts which came upon them. Suffering of the most intense character, the loss of all they had deemed dear in life and an anxion. had deemed dear in life and an anx-lous uncertainty concerning the out-come of it all—these things have made them take recourse to the only com-fort and hope which they have ever known, their religion. And so all over Europe one will find these people to whom religion means more and gives more at this time than ever hefore. And we may be quite sure that if there were no other phase of the situa-tion, his would soon issue in a tretion this would soon issue in a tre- On Several Counts

unendous awakening.
Unfortunately, or in the long run it may prove to be fortunately, an entirely opposite effect is seen in the timed, clergy mandin, the war has brought nothing but configuration.

First there came the question, asked so frequently and so seriously at the beginning of the war: Has Christian-ity broken down and proved a fallure? The rationalistic press took up this question and endeavored in all possi-

question and endeavored in all possible ways to answer it in an affirmative. The religious press tried just as hard to answer it negatively, but the religious literature which circulated among the rank and file of the people hased its logic upon ancient formulas and resorted to a proof-text quoting method that could not be satisfactory. Of course the world would not give up its religion, nor would it readily believe that Christianity must be charged with failure and discarded because one of its ideals had not been reached; nevertheless the controversy was responsible for a confusion in the

freely. And even among the communicants of the Establishment I have found multitudes, especially in the army, who have a greater respect for the dissenters. It is too early to formulate many definite conclusions, but it seems that a great democratization in the European Church is inevitable. And that will be pure gain.

What Europe needs religiously is an American church a progressive, moral, social and evangelistic factor that welcomes truth wherever it may be found and enters politics only when moral reforms are to be fought out. I have been a severe critic of American Christianity, and there are many things about it which I would change if I could, but I have learned that it is the best Christianity on earth. And so we take hope.

we take hope.

In the army the Church as such is doing practically nothing except to furnish chaplains and workers for other agencies. And the chaplains are religious stand-

# doctrine had not been taught to the

masses.

This confusion is quite marked in by some centres, yet I am of the opinion that it will be dissipated quickly when the issues and results of this war are clearly seen to be in line with the advances of the Kingdom of God upon over the certain in the security of a creater. Most of the work, however, is done by the Y. M. C. A., which has expanded and is covering the warring countries workers and stations; it claims to have over 4,000 centres in connection with the Allied armies, and each of these centres require the services of from two or three to a hundred workers, the earth in the securing of a greater degree of liberty, equality, justice and democracy throughout the world.

two or three to a hundred workers, either voluntary or salaried.

The work of the Y. M. C. A., however, is almost wholly social in its nature, although this statement would be denied by its officials. But I can see little real religious and evangelistic work. It sends out its evangelists, to be sure, but they accomplish little and do not essure the support of

peared certain that a great revival was imminent.

But this early religious awakening was founded on fear, and fear is a motive that cannot long support an intelligent faith; the appeal of heaven and the fear of hell has gone from the realm of religion never to return, giving proof that a more enlightened conscience demands a firmer foundation upon which to rest its deepest conviculation.

a vital work among the men.

There is a great demand for some real religious work, some evangelism of a vital type, to be done in the trenches and the camps. I doubt if the problem will be solved, but upon its solution will depend largely the type of men developed in the war. It will not be the best thing for society for millions of men to return with for millions of men to return with ideas that there is no Sabbath and that caused by three things. The first is the exemption clause, which enables young clergymen and licentiates to the name Christian means only

as well as in all the other towns and cities I have visited, vice is as rampant as ever, the general population are as little concerned with eternial matters, and the Church faces the same problems of sin and indifference. In France there are encuraging signs, but in England there are none. Those signs in France appear here and there in the fact that the Roman Cathere in the fact that the Roman Cat

spiration and line I have been interested in observing a superficial type of theology which we find in certain places in abseture day.

On another occasion I heard a clergyman who had just returned from the trenches say that one of his fellow chaplains had preached to a company of men who had come out of the trenches after an eight days' experience under fire on the subject: "Does the Holy Ghost proceed from the Father or from the Father and the Son?"

The third reason I discern for the discontent with the Church is a feeling in some quarters that the Church is the war. For this is in no way true.

"There is a ground," said an army officer to me, "on which the Church might oppose this war and all wars, and if she took that ground we would respect her loyalty to her ideals, even though we would condemn her interpretation of the Gospel, but if, as in the present case, she takes the position that war may be just and righteous and that to wage it is a duty under God, then we may condemn her as inconsistent unless she gives it her entire support."

Feeling Is Based

On Several Counts

must by all means resurrect three old doctrines of the faith; she must set her moral standards again and insist upon human goodness; she must again the value of the individual soul, and she must put a new emphasis upon the immertality of the spirit of man.

This feeling is based upon several counts. One is the matter just mentioned, that of the exemption of the clergy. Another is the fact that commanding officers in many places believe that the Church has interfered with the discipline and general welfare of the men, moral welfare as well as physical welfare, by her opposition to athletic contests and cricket games on Sunday. But the main source of discontent seems to be the objection on the part of the Church to a policy of reprisal in the matter of the bombardment of defenceless towns by airall inspiration is personal in its source, The religious press tried just as hard to snawer it negatively, but the religious literature which circulated among the rank and file of the people hased its logic upon ancient formulas and resorted to a proof-text quoting method that ceuld not be satisfactory.

Of course the world would not give up its religion, nor would it readily bolieve that Christianity must be charged with failure and discarded because one of its ideals had not been reached; nevertheless the controversy was responsible for a confusion in the minds of some people.

Confusion When

Prayers Failed

Coupled with this there arose a confusion in connection with the question, What about prayer? People never prayed so much as they did at the beginning of hostilities. Yet what did their prayers avail? The war went right on, and men were killed just the same. And there was no distinction. The son of the man who prayed for the same who prayed for the same. And there was no distinction. The son of the man who prayed for the same who prayers were not same even to face and the dynamic and personal theory, which insists that all inspiration of the Bible consists in its ability to inspire and that the devil is consisted in the devil to same the devil to same the consists in its ability to inspire and that the devil is same than the devil to same the devil to same the found that the devil to same the found that the devil to same the consists in its ability to inspire and that the sentiment against the my the demand that the devil is the promise of the same than the devil to same the consists in its ability to inspire and that the sentiment against in the bearing the same than the devil to same the development of the same than the devil to same the same than the devil to same the development of t

killed just as quickly as the son of the man who recognized no God to whom one might pray. The prayers were not not many man the least. What, then, brought the charge which is made was the good of prayer, and where was God? Perhaps there is no God, after all.

This doubt and uncertainty affected many people, from the clergyman to the Tommy who use a sample.

This doubt are uncertainty affected many people, from the clergyman to the Tommy who use a sample.

This doubt are uncertainty affected many people, from the clergyman to the Tommy who use a sample.

This doubt are uncertainty affected many people, from the clergyman to the Tommy who use a sample will be a sample to the most radical socialistic type. In this war he realized the real

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That this investigation of the Federal Trade Commission is well under way was announced by several persons spoo at the conference held last week to arrange for a general mass meeting of real estate and construction interests to see what could be done to bring about building activity and, if possible, The date of the mass meeting is ex-

pected to be settled on Wednesday next.

Business Troubles

TAX LIEN COMPANT OF NEW YORK—Seth Sprague Terry and Frederich Cyrus Leubuscher, Lave been appointed receivers of the Tax Lien Company of New York, of 88 William st. which has been engaged in the business of burging, selling and forestedning tax lien. A petition in bankrupter was filed against the company by these creditors Frank L. Montague. 890,809, John Martin, 148,000, and Robert Schal-



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